

Mason LeGrand joins ranks of Eagle Scouts

Mason Nicholas LeGrand joined the ranks of Eagle Scouts at a Court of Honor June 30 at St. Patrick Parish Crane Road church in St. Charles.



Photo provided
Mason LeGrand

The son of Ron and Lora LeGrand and brother of Kegan, Mason began his Boy Scout journey with St. Patrick Boy Scout Troop 10 in fifth grade. Mason has ranked up over the years from Tenderfoot to Eagle. During his Scout journey, he has held several leadership positions and currently serves as an assistant scoutmaster for Troop 10.

He has attended numerous campouts and Scout activities including three High Adventure camps where he canoed down the Wisconsin River; backpacked and hiked over 20 miles and white water rafted in the backcountry of Dolly Sods, W.V.; and hiked over the mountains at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

Mason's Eagle project, for the benefit of St. Patrick

Parish, was a 30-foot concrete patio with surrounding brick walls and a 12-foot diameter fire pit made from masonry blocks in the middle. This project budget was close to \$8,000 and involved over 220 hours of labor.

Helping with the project were Jeff Johnson, Mason's Eagle mentor; Dave Markowicz; Troop 10 Scouts and leaders; family members and friends. Donations came from Troop 10, Cub Scout Pack 110, and Ozinga Concrete, which provided the concrete and support.

Mason graduated from Burlington Central High School in Burlington with honors, where he was involved in the marching band for four years playing the clarinet. He will be attending Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis., this fall. He plans to double major in chemistry and biochemistry and plans to become a pediatrician.



The firepit project is at St. Patrick Crane Road church.



Thinking about a vocation?

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Visit <https://www.rockforddiocese.org/vocations/>

VOCATION CORNER will return



(Observer photos/Deacon Jack Reichardt)
Father Kyle Manno (right) pauses on a flat rock to talk about God during a hike through the woods.

Encountering God

Vocations Office retreat for guys adds hikes in state parks

By AMANDA HUDSON
News Editor

The Encounter Retreat that replaced the former Jeremiah Days for young men in seventh through ninth grades welcomed 22 retreatants this year for two days that blended physical activity with vocation talks and prayers, indoor and outdoor activities.

Seven seminarians and three priests from the Rockford Diocese were joined by one seminarian from Marmion Abbey to staff the retreat.

New this year was a one-day sojourn at Starved Rock and Matthiessen state parks on July 8. The group hiked, heard talks and prayed together amidst the trees and sunshine.

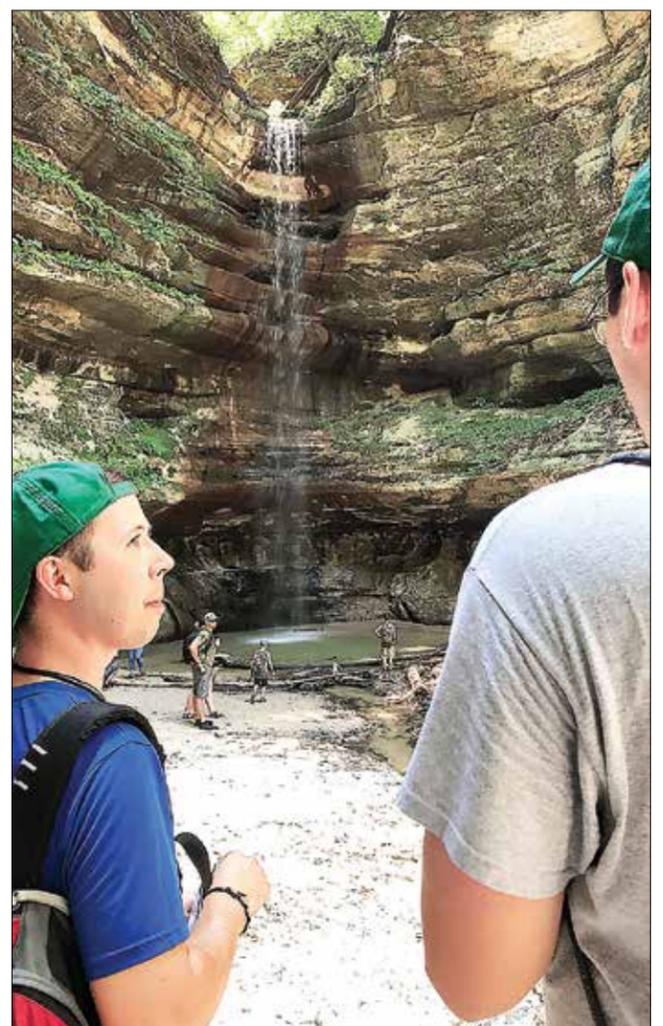
The talks that day included "Authentic Masculinity," "Suffering well, Dying for someone," "Daily, practical" advice, and "How to live this friendship and family."

In addition to Father Kyle Manno, vocation director for the diocese, newly ordained Fathers



The campfire tradition of the Jeremiah Days vocations camps remains a part of the Encounter Retreat for younger men.

Robert Blood and Charles Warren assisted with confessions and a talk about giving all to Christ.



Seminarians Jim Linkenheld (left) and Nick Sentovich watch as retreat participants climb on rocks near a waterfall.